

handle the matter. Basically they become an off track betting licensed element of the state and I believe the revenue to the state and the control of these things will occur in this fashion and be more efficient and more fair to the state. I believe if you simply outlaw them, all you are going to do is create a bookie situation that has been significantly eliminated as a result of the way they function now. So, as I say, all the amendment does is police, tax, regulate these people.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lee Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to support Senator Hefner's bill unamended which isn't surprising since it is my priority bill. I oppose all the amendments. None of them are friendly, I assure you. In LB 744 debate the other day, and I want to continue on with some of the theme that was expressed there, Senator Higgins and Senator Chambers and several other senators took turns kind of lambasting Ak-Sar-Ben a little bit and I kind of cringed from some of that. Senator Higgins said that the track charges people to park their car for box seats and so forth, and I agree one hundred percent with that. She didn't tell the whole story really that the track gets a percentage of the programs and a percentage of the racing forms, the food and the beverages sold, and so forth. I realize, of course, we all know that Ak-Sar-Ben is big, Ak-Sar-Ben makes a lot of money and so forth. We that numerous times the other day also. I would implore you to ask yourself this, if we are going to be objective in this whole issue, we have to ask what they do with the money. And I am not going to speak to how many dollars they put out for fire and rescue equipment around the state or how many county fairs rely on their donations. Ak-Sar-Ben has plenty of people that can speak for themselves. I won't attempt to do that. I want to speak on behalf of the Columbus races, Platte County Agricultural Society, because I was on the board for six years and I know a little about this issue. Platte County Ag Society is, as Ak-Sar-Ben, is a nonprofit organization, nonprofit organization. Some of the things they do at Columbus with the revenue from the races. They provide a free county fair, totally free, and it is a good one.